GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a deterioration in India`s relations with its Neighbours viz., Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve our relations with these neighbouring countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

a) India remains firmly committed to good neighbourly relations with its neighbours and enjoys friendly relations including with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. Pakistan is however continuing its compulsive hostility and sponsorship of cross border terrorism into India.

b) & c) India remains firmly committed to the path of dialogue and reconciliation with Pakistan in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. India has repeatedly called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of terrorism in India so that a conducive environment can be created for the resumption of bilateral dialogue.